

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application, and for the personal interview conducted on August 15, 2006. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action and interview, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe and claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1–10, 12, 14, 21, and 23–25 remain in this application. Claims 11, 13 and 15–20 and 22 have been canceled.

Claims 2–8, 10, 14, and 23–25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. These claims have been amended to correct the identified errors, and thus the rejection is moot.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mead (U.S. 5,708,473). Claim 22 was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 21). For the following reasons, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 22, and thus is in a condition for allowance, as indicated by the Examiner at the personal interview.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appln. No. 09/899,907
Am dt. Dated September 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2006

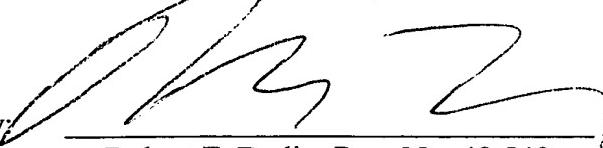
If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33782.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

Date: September 15, 2006

By:


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